Our overarching goal is to harness local health informatics data for health services research conducted by the 59th MDW Science and Technology Office.

Our study objective was to examine trends in the annual Incidence and costs (e.g., RVUs) of treated respiratory illness between 2016 and 2020 across Joint Base San Antonio (JBSA) medical treatment facilities (MTFs).

Background

The SARS-COV-2 and subsequent variants have changed the way we assess and treat respiratory illness in a military environment.

Using local health informatics data, we conducted in-depth analyses of trends in common respiratory illness before and during the pandemic. Specifically, we conducted a review of the annual incidence and costs (e.g., RVUs) of treated respiratory illness from 2016 to 2020 across JBSA MTFs.

To the best of our knowledge, this is the first military health study that integrates population health, health services research, and heath economics to examine the pre-pandemic and current trends in treated respiratory illness among a military population.

Study period: Jan 2016 – Dec 2021

Study design: Retrospective

Study sites: JBSA outpatient MTFs

Population of interest: Active-duty service members who were treated for a respiratory illness at any JBSA outpatient MTF

Select respiratory conditions of interest: (*e.g., common cold, acute bronchitis, pneumonia, influenza-like illness*)

Specific aims:

1. Identify the annual incidence of select respiratory illnesses
2. Assess annual costs (*expressed as RVUs*) for treating select respiratory illnesses

Figure 1. The annual incidence of treated common cold and influenza increased steadily between 2016 – 2019 and decreased in 2020 - 2021.

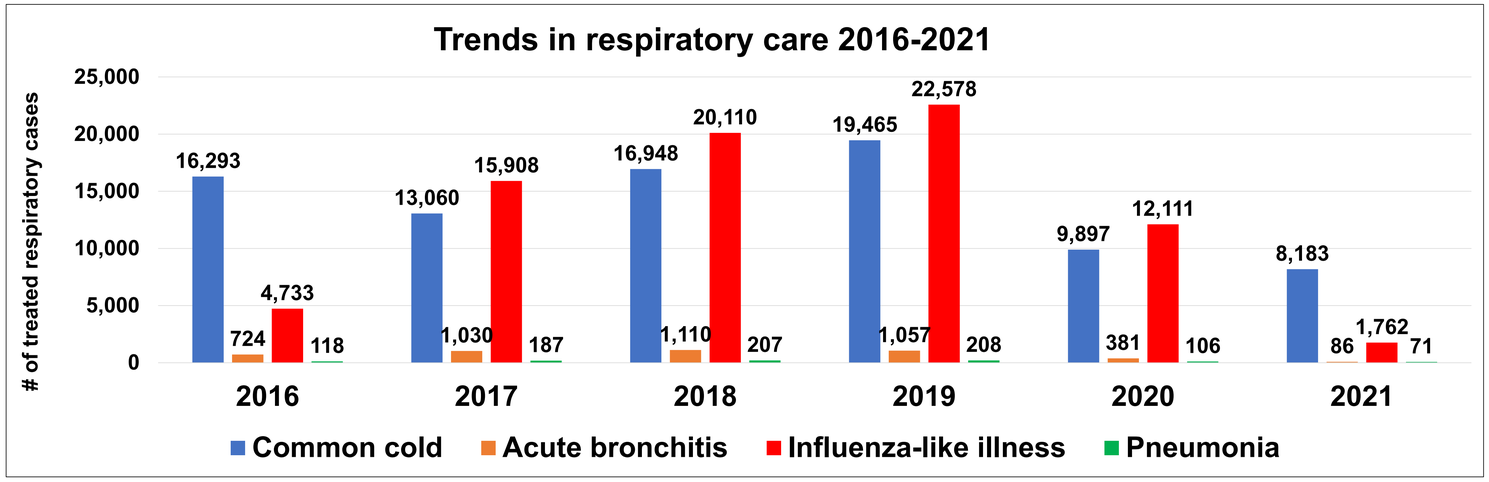
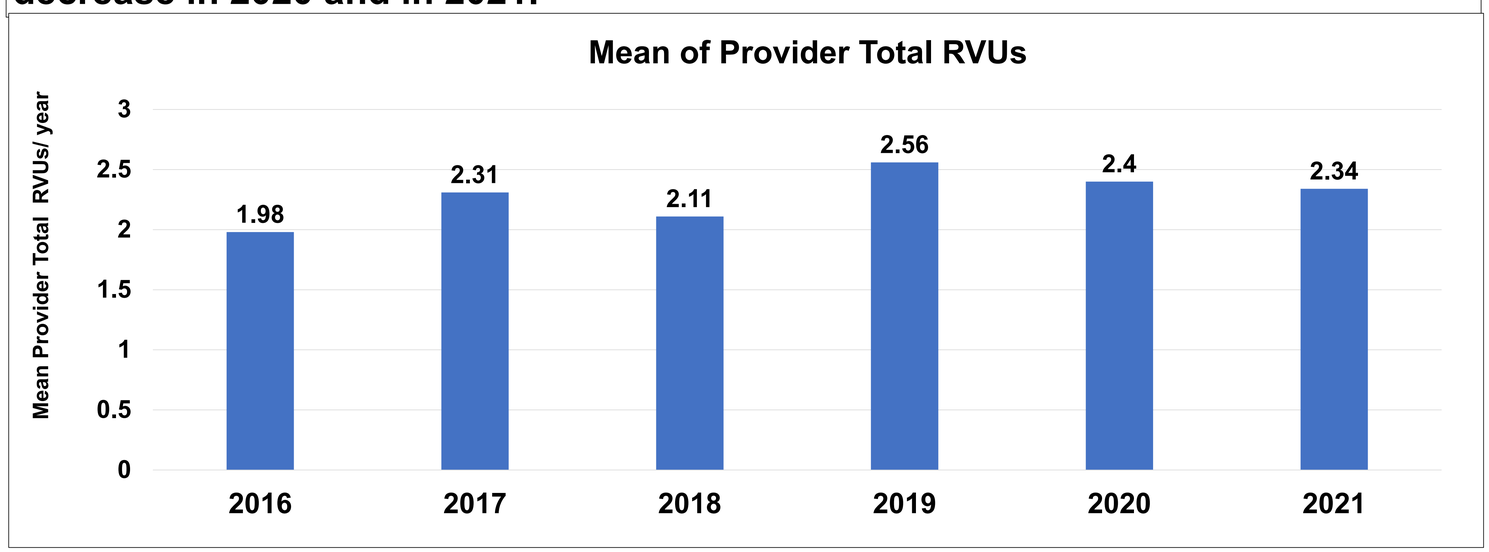


Figure 2. The mean cost (e.g., RVUs) of treating respiratory illness increased steadily from 2.0 RVUs to 2.6 RVUs between 2016 and 2019 with a negligible decrease in 2020 and in 2021.



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Disclaimer: The views exp
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